

FIRE DESTROYS THE NORTH SCHOOL HOUSE

Started in Some Unknown way—Discovered at Midnight, but the Flames Were Beyond Control—Loss \$18,000, Half Insured.

Since Saturday the handsome north side school building lies a mass of smouldering ruins, nothing but the south tower standing as it did before. How the fire started nobody knows, but it was discovered about 2 Friday night far beyond control and the sleepy folks who gathered at the alarm could but stand by and witness the destruction. The loss is estimated at about \$18,000, covered partly by \$9,000 insurance divided among the following companies: Continental \$1000; London \$1000; Niagara \$1000; and \$500 on furniture; Philadelphia \$1000; North British \$1000; Springfield Fire and Marine \$1000; National \$1000; Queen \$1000, and on furniture \$500.

Among the first persons at the fire were William Watts and Dr. W. D. McDowell and both agree that even when they reached the building all three stairways on the east, west and south sides were aflame. One man says he felt an explosion about 12 o'clock that shook his house and he thinks the fire started from a gas explosion, but people living closer to the building noticed nothing of the kind. Another report, proven false, said that Prof. Lewis had a singing class in the building until 12 o'clock. The janitor, Mr. A. N. Bishop, left the building in the evening, everything being in the usual order, the fires turned low and the building empty. He says he never found any trouble with the furnaces, and there was never a time when the heat grew excessive at any point. He, too, is at a loss to account for the fire, save on the ground that some boys had been playing in the building, or tramps had camped in the halls. But there seems no evidence to verify either of these theories.

The fire alarm sounded first between 2 and 3 o'clock, just the hour when Iola people are sleeping the hardest and the ominous clang sounded again and again for a quarter of an hour before a crowd began to gather. Finally the Missouri Pacific switch engine sleepily joined in the alarm, giving out rather a weakfoot that very evidently lacked steam.

The fire engine had been neglected by those who did roll out of bed and make for the fire but finally enough people gathered to take into the scene, but it was useless. And the chances are that had a fully equipped fire department, with water and an engine, been present when the chemical engine arrived nothing could have been done.

The building was erected in 1898 and was located on Brackenridge street, between Sycamore and Jefferson, to accommodate the students of the first and second wards. It was substantially of stone and Iola pressed brick, was handsome in outline, as the accompanying cut shows, and was fitted up with every convenience, furnaces, the best ventilators, dry closets, laboratories and play room in the basement. There were eight large, airy, well lighted rooms in the building and it was one of the edifices which Iola people pointed out with pride to visitors.

500 PUPILS LOSE BOOKS.

The teachers who worked in the building were: George Freeman, principal; Louise Fussman, Hallie Irving, Sadie Post, Mildred Swigart, Lucy Woodin, Austin Bonnell, Adda Adams. The grades which occupied the building were: First, a, b, and c; Second, a and b; Third, a and b; Fourth, a and b; Fifth, a and b; Sixth, a and b; Seventh, a and b; and Eighth b. About five hundred pupils were included in these grades and all of their books and supplies, aggregated not less than \$1500. Besides this loss the piano, worth \$100, which was about paid for by the teachers, went with the rest, and the teachers this morning made up the balance of \$12 still due on it and paid it off. Some of the teachers lost their libraries and all the pictures and decorations with which, at their own expense, they have been beautifying their rooms.

There was an emergency meeting of the school board next morning and steps were taken to meet the new situation. A resolution was offered and carried unanimously that steps be taken immediately to arrange to rebuild as soon as practicable. In this connection there was discussion but no action taken about collecting the \$9,000 insurance, adding the \$20,000 in bonds to be voted next Tuesday and making a small loan, as has been done before, and pushing the construction of the new building in the Third ward and the reconstruction of the north building at the same time. This seems to be a happy solution of the difficulty and by modifying the plans of both

buildings it may be that both can be erected and both delay and expense of a second bond election be thus obviated.

HALF DAY SESSIONS ARRANGED.
A plan was adopted by the board, to continue the schools with half day sessions. All parents should consult the schedule and send their children at the hours specified to the proper rooms.

From Allen County Papers.

Neither Bronson nor Elsmore has a single colored citizen, nor for that a married colored citizen, which doubtless accounts for the wonderful poultry shipments made from both points.

The Moran plan to prospect for gas, about \$10,000 worth, is progressing, but the Herald urges the pledging of cash, not the voting of bonds. The Elsmore Enterprise chips in with the guess that Moran can't afford to bet that sum that there is gas under her.

The M. K. & T. is preparing to lay heavier steel rails through Moran. Mrs. Grubbs, of Chanute, who held a rousing temperance meeting in Iola some time ago, also visited Moran. LaHarpe and Gas City, and had large meetings at each place, resulting in considerable anti-joint agitation.

Moran Herald: It is no trouble for some of our local dry goods box politicians to tell how to finance a nation.

LETTER FROM FAR LUZON

(Continued from page three)

as though she ought to know how to dance, offer her your arm and in most cases she will show you that you have excellent judgment, for while I am free to admit that here beauty is seldom as much askin deep, yet these girls dance, and do it in sandals, that is, a sort of sandal, consisting of a shoe sole with a mere tip on it. Large enough for their toes. When the women walk these soles go flop, flop on the floor, very much with the same cadence and smack that attracted our attention and held it as we stood open-mouthed watching the ponderous ears of the elephant in the circus parade. I sent a lady friend of mine a pair of these sandals and she honored their receipt with these words: "They are all right, just the thing for house wear. But for the life of me I am never quite able to forget that the back door is always open and that my feet are in constant danger of falling out."

While dancing these girls handle themselves with an easy grace that is marvelous, as their walk at all times is far from graceful. The dance in this country is neither a hugging match nor a foot race. The music has been going now for about half an hour and probably every male dancer has seated as many as three or four girls and as often gone to another and taken her into the whirl. Here one is at liberty to seat a partner and secure another, and the chances are that somewhere on the second round after he has secured a new partner he will see his discard glide by with another fellow. So long as a couple is on the floor the band continues the music. The cue for a change of selections is for someone with authority to step to the leader and request it or for every couple to forsake the floor at the same time in which case the orchestra rests for a few brief moments and when it begins again it is another dance of another sort.

ince and we have failed to find track or trace of either Ladrone or Insurrector. The condition of affairs here is rapidly slanting down to garrison duty but there will of course be small engagements of small import for some time to come, yet civil government and the civil commission are certainly producing results of the substantial order. Results such as were hoped for when the time should come for such movements in that direction as were suggested by the administration could be inaugurated. Patrol work and constant vigilance will be necessary however for many months yet. There is too much tribal animosity to admit of withdrawing troops and besides the local governments need the protection afforded by the presence of troops.

With kindest regards to yourself and family, I am very sincerely yours
ODE C. NICHOLS.

2nd Lt., 34 Infy. U. S. V.

To Reduce Number of Elections.

Sometime ago the REGISTER reported the introduction of a bill in the legislature which aimed at the suppression of the off-year county elections. The bill never progressed as it was objected that the legislature could not under the constitution do away with any election. The other day Attorney General Godard ruled that this was not so, and but for the fact that the time is getting short the legislature might wipe out the odd year elections and make all county officers elected at the same time, in even years, with the State ticket. This would knock out the election this fall and the present sheriff, county clerk, recorder, coroner and surveyor would hold over. The chances are against the law passing this session, which would put it off two years.

Another bill of local interest is the proposed amendment to the fee and salary law to have the county clerk allowed the same sum for clerk hire that the treasurer gets.



THE NORTH SCHOOL BUILDING AS IT APPEARED BEFORE THE FIRE.

but when it comes to making a decent living for their wives and children, it becomes a local issue that makes them hump.

Gas City Headlight: Mrs. Thompson is here this week and left the information that she had changed her mind about the size of the hotel to be, instead of just being two stories high, it will be almost two stories and a half high with three floors and will not cost less than \$4000.

Moran Herald: The Moran M. W. A. band is planning to visit several of the neighboring towns in the near future and give band concerts.

Moran Herald: The Herald wants to endorse a suggestion made by the Iola REGISTER last week in regard to a rest room in the new court house when it is built, be that next year or ten years hence. A room in one corner of the building designed as a room for the comfort of ladies of the country when they are at the county seat waiting for a train or for their husbands to get ready to go home, would be a new departure but one that could be profitably initiated. Let the room be furnished with sofas, rockers and other furnishings such as would be necessary and it will meet with the general approval of at least all the ladies, and that is all it needs to assure the provision of the room.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, ss.

LUCAS COUNTY,
FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1886.

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In another room convenient for the purpose a long table is loaded with a cold spread, and it is invariably the best obtainable. One is at liberty at all times to go to it and help himself, but never to take a lady with you, for these people go separately, the gentlemen first. All during the time of the dance a native band outside furnishes quaint music for the benefit of those on the balconies. But there is a conspicuous absence of youth and maid paired off in shady nooks trying to trade hands and sighing at each other—no they don't do that here. When a fellow wants a girl, he makes his selection at long range, makes the proposition to her parents at close range and if he don't get "rapid fire" in return, you can count on it that he has drawn his package and is fixing to spend a life-time finding out things about it. They go to dances to dance and wear their good clothes. It is not the correct thing in polite society for a gentleman to become personal in his remarks or attentions. So it is when the clock strikes three and the crowd begins to disperse that the President, usually an old man, comes to you with outstretched hands and says "Buonas noche Senor, como usted pasa la noche. Estel monyana?" Which is equivalent to "How have you passed the night? I will bid you goodbye now to meet tomorrow." And we go to our homes feeling that we have indeed seen and passed through "the day we celebrate."

I shall send this "collet" as there is no such thing as postage in this province just at present, neither will there be until a supply boat comes up from Manila.

I had a letter recently from our mutual friend Judge Stillwell recently and he tells me of some of the new fellows recently added to Miss Iola's city gowns.

I have been in no engagements since I left Cubantuan more than one month ago and the truth is I have heard of but one since the election news reached here. There have been three concert movements of the troops in this prov-

The New Sewer Change Expensive.

The REGISTER noted a few days ago that there was considerable objection on the part of adjoining property owners to the proposed dumping of the sewerage from Bricktown into Elm Creek. They claimed that the back water from the cement dam would receive and hold this filth and the result would be stagnant sewerage that would breed disease and malodorous gases. The engineers, Burns & McDonnell, had this very idea in mind when they made the estimate and so after making the plan to empty one sewer into Elm Creek they made a supplementary estimate, carrying the Bricktown sewerage into Main 1, and thence direct to the river. This plan means that the outlet from the city to the river must be lowered about seven feet and a pumping station kept in use about half the time. The additional cost, aside from the expense of operating the pumping station is figured at \$5,780. Bricktown and adjacent territory was drained into a separate sewer for the very reason that it is so low it does not permit a natural fall to the river. The engineers tried to make the territory in this section as small as possible, hoping thereby to utilize the creek without danger or damage and keep the other sewers elevated so the natural fall would save the expense of a pumping station, save when the river was out of its banks. The present situation rather stumps the city officials and it certainly calls prominently into notice the gravest problem in the local sewerage situation.

Death of M. M. Smith.

Mr. M. M. Smith, aged 74 years, died at 7 o'clock Monday at his home 518 North street. He was a comparative stranger here, having moved here from Arkansas City but three months ago. The cause of his death was pneumonia, which at his advanced age quickly proved fatal. He leaves a wife, five sons and two daughters. A short prayer service was held at the house Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock and the remains were taken to Arkansas City on the night train for burial.

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